EXHIBIT 17

DATE 1-29-09

HB 253

Sternberg, Doug

From: dana boruch [dboruch@bresnan.net]

Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 9:52 PM

To: Van Dyk, Rep Kendall; mikephillips@montana.net; ted@tedwashburn.com

Cc: Sternberg, Doug

Subject: Wild Buffalo Recovery Act HB 253

I am submitting these comments for the House Fish, Wildlife & Parks committee, in support of HB 253.

Chairman Van Dyke; Representative Phillips; Representative Wasuburn; and committee members:

I would like to request that you support HB 253. The management of our wildlife - including our bison - belong in the hands of wildlife professionals in Montana's Fish, Wildlife & Parks department. I believe that the state has already recognized the role of FWP in managing wildlife and bison with its recent purchase of a conservation easement in Gardiner to allow grazing of bison outside of Yellowstone Park.

The management of bison belongs in the hands of FWP, not the Department of Livestock, which is too heavily influence by the Montana Stockgrower's Association.

Bison have for too long been slaughtered by the DOI, in the name of brucellosis management, yet the only established transmissions of brucellosis to domesticated animals (both cattle and horses) have come from elk. We will not solve our brucellosis problem until Wyoming and the U.S. Department of the Interior ceases its feed grounds.

i urge you to pass this bill

Sincerely,

Dana M. Boruch 1958 S. 4th St. W #7 Missoula 59801-9097